Marriage, Divorce, and Family Groups

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Marriage, Divorce, and Family Groups

- Marital Status.
- Measures and Analysis of Change.
- Family Groups

Marital Status

Marital Status

- Marital status are useful and valid demographic variables for study because marriage is an expected event for nearly all of the world's population.
- To ignore marriage would be to ignore a major life course event directly affecting fertility and indirectly affecting a host of demographic social, and economic characteristics.
- Study of marital status allows us to examine the path to marriage by studying the characteristics of people never married as well as the characteristics of the newly married

Marital Status

- We can study duration of marriage by comparing marriage and divorce data for the same cohorts.
- Socioeconomic and other circumstances before and after marriages can be studied to illustrate the forces at work in the processes of marital dissolution and remarriage.
- Life course changes associated with marriage may be compared among racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups within and between countries.

Basic Categories of Marital Status

- Most countries conducting a population census use the following general categories, which are applicable in nearly every culture:
  1. single (never married),
  2. married and not legally separated,
  3. widowed and not remarried,
  4. divorced and not remarried,
  5. married but legally separated, and sometimes another category
  6. remarried.
- Countries are requested by the United Nations to specify the minimum legal age at which marriage with parental consent can occur.

Basic Categories of Marital Status

- Other categories of marital status, although not as common, may be needed in countries where there are such special practices as the following categories:
  1. Concubinage: cohabitation without legal marriage
  2. Polygamy: marriage which includes more than two partners. Polygamy is the opposite of monogamy. When a man is married to more than one wife at a time, the relationship is called *polygyny*, and when a woman is married to more than one husband at a time, it is called *polyandry*.
  3. Levirate marriage: when a widow woman marries her husband's brother.
  4. Sororate marriage: when a widow man marries his wife's sister, and
  5. Same-sex marriages.

Additional Marital Status Concepts

- Marital status often is further distinguished by making subdivisions or combinations of the standard categories.
- For example, the category ever married is simply a combination of currently married (including separated), widowed, and divorced.
- It is usually a counterpoint to single (i.e., never married).
- Age at first marriage has been one of the most informative facts about women's marital history, especially for the study of their fertility.
- Religious marriage and civil marriage.

Quality of the Statistics

- **Response Bias**
- In reporting any type of personal information such as marital status, respondents frequently introduce several types of biases that tend to have a negative effect on the quality of the statistics.
- The biases introduced by respondents usually result from the respondent's unwillingness to admit marital difficulties, divorces, or separations.
- Respondents may also report incorrect ages on marriage license forms in order to conceal their true age, such as when marrying without parental consent or when marrying in order to legitimate a child's birth.

Quality of the Statistics

- **Non-response**
- Non-response to questions on marital status and inconsistent responses involving marital status pose additional problems.
- Unlike age, which can be deduced from date of birth and the current date, marital status cannot be assumed or deduced readily from other answers of the respondent.

Measures and Analysis of Change

Measures of Marriage and Divorce

Percentage
Distribution

Percentage Distribution of Males and Females
Aged 20–24 and 65 Years and over by Marital Status, for
Selected Areas: Selected Years, 1991 to 1998

Area, Year, and Marital Status	20–24 years old		65–69 years old	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
India, 1991	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married	39.6	81.8	84.3	51.0
Divorced[1]	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.4
Widowed	0.3	0.6	13.4	48.0
Never married	59.9	17.0	2.0	0.6
United States, 1998	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married	15.9	27.8	80.4	55.9
Separated	0.9	1.9	1.1	1.3
Divorced	1.5	2.5	7.8	8.9
Widowed	0.0	0.2	8.8	31.9
Never married	83.4	70.3	4.1	4.3

Measures of Marriage and Divorce

- **Crude Marriage (Divorce) Rate:**
- Crude marriage rates are used most effectively for gross analyses in areas that may not have the additional data to compute more refined measures.
- If M is the total number marriages in one year, and P is the average number of persons living in that year, then the formula for the crude marriage rate (CMR) is:

$$CMR = \frac{M}{P} \times 1000$$

Measures of Marriage and Divorce

- **General Marriage (Divorce) Rate:**
- In areas with more detailed data, a preferred measure is the general marriage rate (GMR).
- In this measure the population is restricted to persons of marriageable age.
- Most commonly the rate is expressed as the number of marriages per 1000 women aged 15 and over.

Measures of Marriage and Divorce

- **General Marriage/Divorce Rate:**
- The formula is as follows:

$$GMR = \frac{M}{P^f_{15+}} \times 1000$$

- Where:
- M is the number of marriages, and
- P^f_{15+} is the number of women aged 15 and older.
- A similar formula would be used to represent the general divorce rate.

Measures of Marriage and Divorce

- **Refined Divorce/Marriage Rate:**
- The formula to calculate this rate is as follows:

$$RDR = \frac{D}{P^f_{mar}} \times 1000$$

- Where:
- D is the number of divorces, and
- P^f_{mar} is the number of married females.
- A similar measure could be formulated for a refined marriage rate, wherein the number of marriages in a year is related to the number of single, widowed, and divorced women or men at the middle of the year.

Measures of Marriage and Divorce

- **Age-Sex-Specific Marriage/Divorce Rates:**
- It is often important to take account of the variations in the age and sex composition of a population and compute marriage and divorce rates for age groups separately for men and women.
- By restricting the measure to one age group (and one sex) at a time, it is possible not only to examine the rates for the individual age-sex groups but also to "control" for the size of the population in each age-sex group.
- Both marriage (ASMR) and divorce (ASDR) rates can be calculated in this way.

Measures of Marriage and Divorce

- **Age-Sex-Specific Marriage/Divorce:**
- The formula for the divorce rate at a specific age or age-group is as follows (females 20-24 as an example):

$$ASDR^f_{20\text{-}24} = \frac{D^f_{20\text{-}24}}{P^f_{20\text{-}24}} \times 1000$$

- Where:
- $D^f_{20\text{-}24}$ is the number of divorces among females in the age-group 20-24, and
- $P^f_{20\text{-}24}$ is the number of female population in the age-group 20-24 in the mid-year.

Measures of Marriage and Divorce

- Many other marriage/divorce rates can be calculated such as the mean/median age at marriage.
- A detailed description of these measures is included in a separate course; *nuptiality course*.

Family Groups

Household!

- Usually, countries use censuses to collect data from "households."
- Considering the "household" as the unit for data collection data are secured on the composition and structure of households.
- The relationships of the people within the household can document broad societal trends.
- For example, analyses of household composition in the United States during the 1990s showed an increasing proportion of children living in one-parent households as well as a large proportion of grandchildren living only with their grandparents.

Household!

- Likewise, the living arrangements of adults have been affected by societal changes.
- For example, there has been an increase in unmarried-couple households and households maintained by single adults living alone, including young adults maintaining their own households.

Definition of Household

- The **household** (**HH**) is "the basic residential unit in which economic production, consumption, inheritance, child rearing, and shelter are organized and carried out"; [the household] "may or may not be synonymous with family".

Family and non-family household

- Family households are households maintained by a family.
- Family households include any unrelated people who may be residing in the same housing unit.
- Non-family households consist of a person living alone or a group of unrelated people sharing a housing unit.

Household and Family Statistics

- Size of Household or Family.
- Number of Generations in a Family.
- Characteristics of Households and Families as Social and Economic Units.
- Characteristics of Persons by Characteristics of Their Household or Families.

Size of Household or Family

- **Mean (average) size of household:**
- The mean (average) size of households is computed by the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Total population}}{\text{Number of households}}$$

Number of Generations in a Family

- Two types of households may be identified according to the number of generations in a family:
  - Nuclear Family
  - Extended Family
- **Nuclear family** is a term used to define a family group consisting of a pair of adults and their children.
- **Extended family** is a family group that consists of parents, children, and other close relatives such as grade parents who are living in the same household.

Characteristics of Households

- When studying households, it can be desirable to explore the social as well as economic characteristics of the household or family members.
- Characteristics of households may include the following factors:
  - **Household income**: the summation of income of individuals sharing the same household.
  - **Type of housing unit**: materials used in the walls and roof.
  - **Access to public services**: such as water, electricity, and sewage disposal system.

Characteristics of Households

- **Ownership of housing unit**: Owned or rented.
- **Headship of household**: such as the percent of female-headed household
- ….. etc, …

Characteristics of Persons by Characteristics of their Household

- Conversely, it is sometimes beneficial to study individuals within the context of their households or families.
- It is common in demography to categorize individuals according their household characteristics.
- Household characteristics may affect demographic outcomes, so that linking individuals to their household characteristics may help explain different demographic outcomes

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Next Week

- **March 25: No Lecture, Conference Travel**
- **April 1: Educational and Economic Characteristics**
- **Readings:**
- Siegel, J. & Swanson, D. Chapter 10 ; pp :211-252.

- **Assignments**:
- Calculate the basic measures of and divorce for your country or a country of your choice using the latest census data.
- Comment on the results